Check List **5**(3): 383–385, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae, *Lygophis meridionalis*: Type locality

Pier Cacciali [1, 2]
Urs Wüest [3]

[1] *Instituto de Investigación Biológica del Paraguay.*
Del Escudo 1607. Asunción, Paraguay. E-mail: pier_cacciali@yahoo.com

[2] *Fundación Intercultural Experience.*
José Martí 535. Asunción, Paraguay.

[3] *Naturhistorisches Museum Basel.*
Augustinergasse 2, CH 4001, Basel, Switzerland.

Lygophis meridionalis is a terrestrial colubrid snake (Cei 1993) that is mainly associated with lentic body water edges (Leynaud and Bucher 1999); and is distributed from central and south-east Brazil and Bolivia, to north-east Argentina and Paraguay (Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002). This species was located in the genus *Liophis*, but recently Zaher et al. (2009) resurrected the genus *Lygophis*. It was described by Schenkel (1901) as *Aporophis lineatus* var. *meridionalis* based upon a male, a female and a couple of juveniles (specimens NMB 1454 to 1457) from Bemalcue, Monte Sociedad, Paraguay. However, despite the importance of the type locality, "Bemalcue, Monte Sociedad" was never plotted in maps nor located specifically (Hoge 1953; Michaud and Dixon 1987; Dixon 1989; Peters and Orejas Miranda 1970). The aim of this contribution is to clarify the specific location of the Type Locality for *Lygophis meridionalis*.

This work was carried out by historical research and revision of historical places in Paraguay. The catalogue data of the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel type material is available online [www.nmb.bs.ch/typenkatalog_reptilien_internetversion.xls]. In this catalogue, the specimen NMB 1454 of *L. meridionalis* appears as "Paratype" but there is no published information to supports this. Biogeographical data are taken from Dinerstein et al. (1995).

In Paraguay there are no places named "*Bemalcue, Monte Sociedad*". Both are different localities that had changed names with time.

By transcription mistake, Schenkel wrote Bemalcue, being actually Bernal Cué. Bernal Cué is a town currently named "Nueva Colombia" located in the Department of Cordillera at 25°11' S, 57°21' W in the east side of Paraguay River. Monte Sociedad is now called "Cerrito" in the Department of Presidente Hayes in the west margin of Paraguay River, at 24°58' S, 57°32' W.

As such, type locality of *Lygophis meridionalis* could be any of both. Nevertheless, all specimens were collected by Carl Ternetz who formed a small collection from Paraguay. Basel Museum bought this collection in 1895. The Basel Museum's books state that specimens of this collection came from *Mte. Sociedad.* In conclusion, this should be considered the type locality. Other specimens of Ternetz, actually belongs from Bernal Cué (type specimen of *Paroxyrhopus reticulatus*), but not those of *L. meridionalis*.

Cerrito is located in the eco-region of Wet Chaco, characterized by prairies with palm trees (*Copernicia alba*) adapted to periodic floods (Figure 1).

Check List **5**(3): 383–385, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

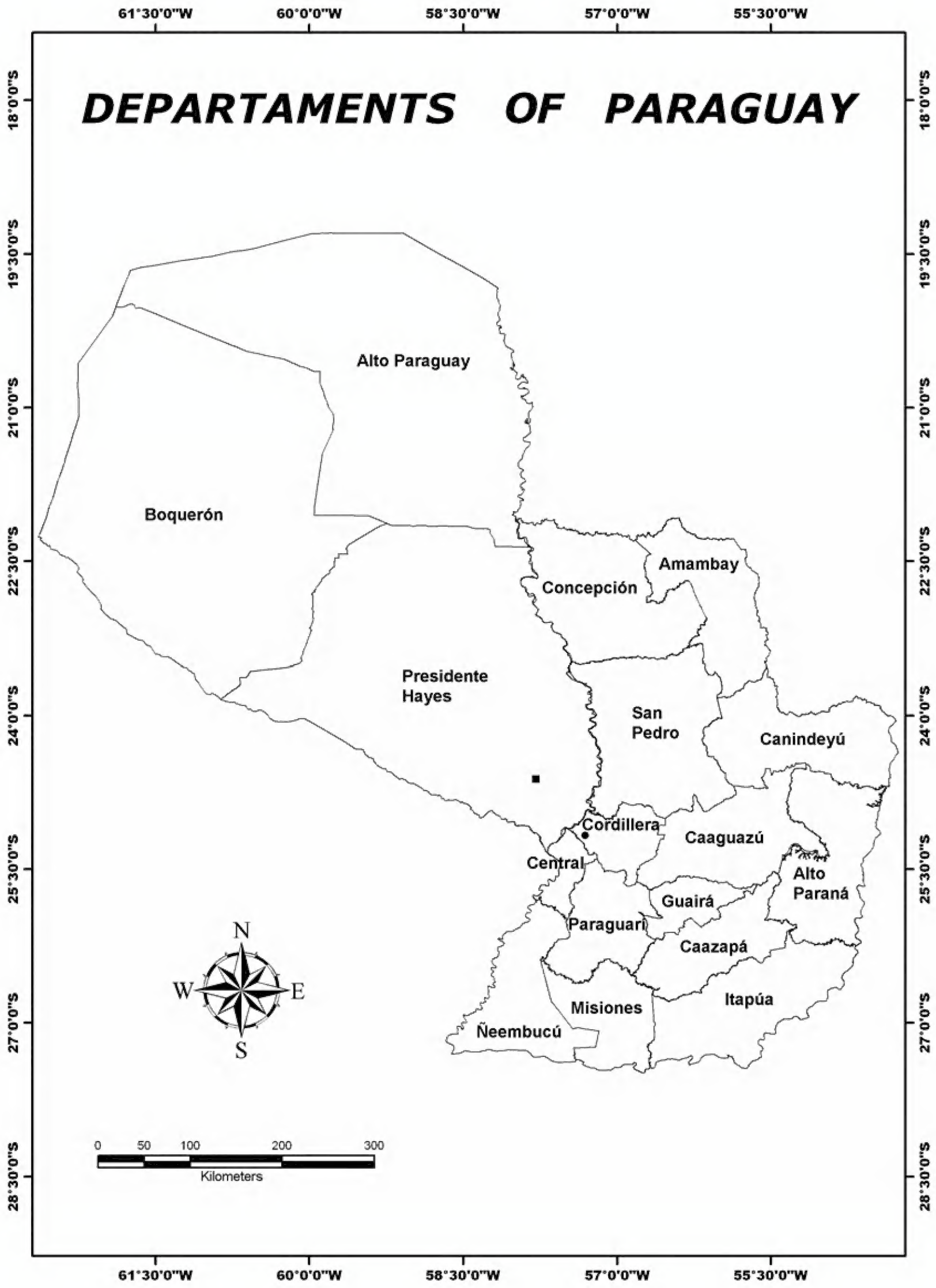

Figure 1. Map of Paraguay showing the localities referred in this work. The circle corresponding to "Colonia Nueva Colombia", formerly named "Bernal Cué"; and the square represents the proposed type locality for *Liophis meridionalis*: "Monte Sociedad", actually called "Cerrito".

Check List **5**(3): 383–385, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Alberto Yanosky (Asociación Guyra Paraguay) for the revision of the manuscript, as well as two additional referees.

Literature cited
Cei, J. M. 1993. Reptiles del noroeste, nordeste y este de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de las selvas subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Torino, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali (Monografie 14): 949 p.

Dinerstein, E. , D. M. Olson, D. J. Graham, A. L. Webster, S. A. Primm, M. P. Bookbinder, and G. Ledec. 1995. A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. Washington, D.C., WWF-World Bank. 129 p.

Dixon, J. 1989. A key and checklist to the neotropical snake genus *Liophis* with country lists and maps. Smithsoinan Herpetological Information Service 79: 1–28.

Giraudo, A., and G. Scrocchi. 2002. Argentinian snakes: An annotated checklist. Smithsonian Herpetological Information Service 132: 1–53.

Hoge, A. 1953. Notes on *Lygophis* Fitzinger with revalidation of two subspecies. Memórias do Instituto Butantan 24: 179–214.

Leynaud, G. and E. Bucher. 1999. La fauna de serpientes del Chaco sudamericano: Diversidad, distribución geográfica y estado de conservación. Academia Nacional de Ciencias, Miscelánea 98: 1-46.

Michaud, E., and J. Dixon. 1987. Taxonomic revision of the *Liophis lineatus* complex (Reptilia: Colubridae) of Central and South America. Contributions in Biology and Geology Milwaukee Public Museum 71: 1–26.

Peters, J. and B. Orejas Miranda. 1970. Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata, Part I: Sankes. United States National Museum Bulletin 297: 1–347.

Schenkel, E. 1901. Achter Nachtrag zum Katalog der herpetologischen sammlung des Wasler Museums. Verhandlungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Basel 13: 142–199.

Zaher, H., F. G. Grazziotin, J. E. Cadle, R. W. Murphy, J. C. de Moura-Leite and S. L. Bonatto. 2009. Molecular phylogeny of advanced snakes (Serpentes, Caenophidia) with an emphasis on South American Xenodontines: a revised classification and descriptions of new taxa. Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia 49: 115-153.

Received February 2009
Accepted June 2009
Published online August 2009